

P4035 5666

Oct. 17, 1968

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 8 1976

DATE ENTERED *Approved* JAN 20 1978SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\*\*

Carl Sandburg Home NHS

AND/OR COMMON

Connemara

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P.O. Box 395, Little River Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Flat Rock

VICINITY OF

11th

STATE

CODE

37

COUNTY

CODE

Henderson

089

North Carolina

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☒ MUSEUM☒ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER: Living**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1895 Phoenix Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds, Henderson County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hendersonville

STATE

North Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

National Register of Historic Places

DATE

1969

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

DC

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Connemara estate (approximately 242 acres) is significant as the home of the Sandburg family from 1945 to 1967, as well as a repository of the personal and literary effects of Carl Sandburg. The Sandburg home was established as a National Historic Site in 1968 after Carl Sandburg's death in 1967. It was then acquired from the Sandburg family under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior in 1969.

At the time of acquisition from the Sandburg family the property included most of the buildings which existed during the 22-year period of Carl Sandburg's residence there. Although there has been some deterioration due to lack of high-standard maintenance, the 32 buildings now existing stand generally in the same condition as when Sandburg was living. In fact, the residential and farm scene is essentially as it was when the Sandburgs moved to Connemara in 1945.

The Sandburg estate includes a number of subsidiary structures which were functionally important in the pattern of living established by the family. These buildings can be divided into two units: the main house and those buildings associated with the family residence; and the farm unit, the center of the goat-raising activities. The main house stands as a graceful example of rural architecture of the early 19th century. The interior is unpretentious with uncurtained windows and functional furniture. The Sandburg presence is visible throughout with vast floor to ceiling bookcases, collections of magazines and clippings, boxes of letters, and personal items scattered about. The most important subsidiary buildings in the vicinity of the main house are the garage and the "Swedish house". The latter is used as storage of a portion of the Sandburg collection of magazines and newspapers.

The historical collections at Connemara consist principally of the furnishings at the home and the collections of memorabilia, including a large body of written works. The question of the status of the Sandburg library is of special importance because it is representative of the man. The University of Illinois removed a significant segment of the collection to their University library. No further withdrawals have been made.

The principal features of the farm unit are the barn (which includes facilities for milking the goats), the keeper's quarters, and the equipment storage building. At its peak, the goatherd numbered 300 and grazed over much of the pastured area below and to the north of the barn. A representative number of each of the three breeds owned by the Sandburgs is there today which included- the Nubian, the Toggenburg, and the Saanen. The family managed the herd in a businesslike manner, marketing the goat milk locally to neighbors, and to the Biltmore and Kalmia Dairies.

The grounds of the estate were admirably suited to the tastes and needs of the Sandburg family. The pasture land in the northwest corner of the property provided the resource necessary for grazing the goatherd. Of the remainder of the land- the ponds, the trail-laced forests of white pine, oak, tuliptree, maple, the thickets of rododendron and azalea, and distant views- the Sandburgs thought it more than beautiful. The approach leads up a winding drive from Little River Road between tall pines.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Connemara was the home of Carl Sandburg the last 22 years of his life, 1945-1967. Here he closed a literary career of more than a half a century during which time he sought to capture in his own life and works America's epic traditions. With its vast collections of books, papers, correspondence, and everyday objects and its vivid association in the public mind with Sandburg, Connemara is a fitting memorial to this man.

Connemara had first been developed as a summer residence by Christopher G. Menninger of Charleston, South Carolina. The house was built about 1838 and called Rock Hill. He later became Secretary of Treasury of the Confederate States. Another owner was Captain Ellison Adger Smythe, a textile tycoon, from whose estate the property was available to the Sandburgs. Smythe gave the farm a new name, Connemara.

Carl and Paula Sandburg had two specific reasons for being attracted to Connemara: they needed a milder climate for Carl's health and there was sufficient room for their expanding goatherd. Mrs. Sandburg raised the world famous Toggenburg, Saanen, and Nubian goats. She developed the all-time Grand Champion milk producing goats from these select breeds. Another consideration was the location. It was more convenient in relation to his publisher and friends on the East coast than their former home in Michigan.

One of America's most versatile writers, Carl Sandburg ranged widely in the fields of history, poetry, biography, and beyond. His finest poems celebrated the lusty industrial growth of the Nation. His Complete Poems won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1951; the second part of his Lincoln biography, Abraham Lincoln: The War Years won the Pulitzer Prize in history in 1940. Many of his major works were written at Connemara such as the autobiographical Always the Young Strangers, Remembrance Rock, Complete Poems, The Sandburg Range, Honey and Salt, the one-volume Lincoln biography, and

The poverty and hard work that Sandburg knew as a youth colored his entire life and largely explains his point of view and compassion. As one literary critic said, he was largely a product of the "plain Midwest, the small town, the prairie soil and wind, the cornfield, and the corner barbershop." The rural outlook dominated his writings and his life style. All that he did illustrated his sympathy for the common man and his sense of brotherhood. His informal dress, the simplicity of his words, his folk singing, the belief that folk wisdom may well transcend book learning- can best be remembered at Connemara.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, Interpretive Prospectus, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, 1970.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, Master Plan, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, 1971.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 246

UTM REFERENCES

A 1.7 368710 3904260  
ZONE EASTING 200 NORTHING 880  
C 1.7 367175 3902940

B 1.7 368190 3902620  
ZONE EASTING 690 NORTHING 470  
D 1.7 367640 3904530

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Identical to boundaries of National Historic Site

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon V. Gay

Revised 6/76

ORGANIZATION

Curator- Carl Sandburg Home

June 5, 1973

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 395

TELEPHONE

(704) 692-7314

CITY OR TOWN

Flat Rock

STATE

North Carolina

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State ☐ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE

NOV 24 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 1-20-78

ATTEST:

DATE

1-16-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Carl Sandburg ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

On one side an ivy-covered rock wall with glimpses of the home may be seen through the trees. Sandburg's favorite walks and viewpoints are generally preserved from outside encroachments by adequate space buffers, vegetative cover, and advantageous terrain. The land covering the southwest half of the park is rough, wooded terrain with springs and a stream which rises on Big Glassy Mountain. Around the immediate historic area there is generally a wooded buffer which also has two ponds.

The National Historic Site lies in an area in transition between rural and residential. In particular, a high-quality, low-density residential area exists along the park boundary, both on the north and the east. South and west of the park, the land is heavily wooded, mountainous terrain not conducive to development.

✓ (No. HS 1) Main House

The main is a 1½ story, frame structure, rectangular in plan, with gable roof and two gabled dormers. A pedimented, 3-bay porch is centered on front facade. Walls are clad with weather boarding; roof covered with asbestos slate (replaced by park in recent years with composition roofing). Pediment is supported by 4 Roman doric (fluted) columns. Foundation and basement walls of field stone in lime mortar. Three large interior chimneys are located on the ridge line, all made of brick. Alterations include the addition of a porch on the back of the house which was later enclosed to make three rooms and a bath. Other changes were the lowering of ceilings and the addition of bathrooms.

✓ (No. HS 2) Garage

This is a one story, square, three-bay garage of frame construction with stone masonry foundation. Originally used as a kitchen, but altered by the Sandburgs into a garage. It has a gable roof covered with composition roofing. The walls are clad with weatherboarding. End walls have four double-hung sash windows six over six with simple framing, arranged in two pair.

✓ (No. HS 3) Swedish House

Frame house, two-story, white (c. 1838) with weatherboarding walls. A guest house, the chimney was removed and the fireplace closed by the Sandburgs. Now a storage area for written materials.

✓ (No. HS 4) Tenant House

Built in 1900, it is a one-story L-framed structure with rear basement. It has one central chimney and one exterior chimney on L-shaped side. Centered in front is a shed porch at grade supported by four wooden posts.

✓ (No. HS 5) Wash House

White, frame house originally used as residence and/or kitchen. Used by Sandburgs as chicken house and later as a wash house. Rectangular with central chimney, low pitched gable metal roof. Long side features two separate doors. End has two

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CONTINUATION SHEET Carl Sandburg ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

double-hung sash windows.

✓ (No. HS 6) Wood Shed

This is a seven-bay long rectangular frame shed with metal roof. Three sides are enclosed with vertical boards, with open side supported by five posts. Foundation is of heavy stone, with partial masonry. *u*

✓ (No. HS 7) Smoke House (Spring House)

A board and batten house originally used as a spring house. However, the Sandburgs used it as a cheese house.

✓ (No. HS 8) Pump House

This is a rectangular frame reservoir and pump house set on a concrete foundation. It has a half gable roof and walls are of weatherboarding.

✓ (No. HS 9) Green House

This is a low rectangular frame structure with composition roofing. Structure used as a greenhouse but is badly deteriorated.

✓ (No. HS 10) Spring House *(No. 70-1)*

This is a cement block rectangular structure with a flat roof. Structure serves as a reservoir for spring and houses a pump. '

✓ (No. HS 11) Farm Manager's House

A 1½ story frame house (c. 1900), rectangular in plan with two brick chimneys, one of which is interior. A shed porch, supported by four posts, overhangs a central door and two double-hung sash windows, 2/2. Painted green; it is used as a residence.

✓ (No. HS 12) Buck House

Farm building used for housing goats. It is a frame square weatherboarded structure with 1½ story gable roof.

✓ (No. HS 13) Equipment Garage

This is a frame, 4-bay garage, rectangular in plan. Painted white, it is used as a utility building.

✓ (No. HS 14) Corn Crib *u*

A corn crib made of wood framing with open-lath construction. Rectangular, it has a gable roof covered with asbestos slate roofing. The structure sits up off the ground with four posts.

✓ (No. HS 15) & (No. HS 16) Stock Barns

Frame barns used as goat quarters.

No. 15 is square with steep gable roof; 1½ stories.

No. 16 is rectangular with open-slatted cupola on ridge. Shed porch on south end.

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*JAN 9 1977*

CONTINUATION SHEET Carl Sandburg ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

✓ (No. HS 16a) Milk House

This is an L-shaped stone masonry structure used for milk storage. One portion of the L is one story, the other being 1½ stories. The latter portion has double doors. The gable roof has exposed rafter ends along eaves.

(No. HS 17) Stock Barn (Stable)

1½ story barn used as yearling quarters. Steeply pitched metal roof and walls are weatherboarded.

(No. HS 18) Feed House

Small frame building used as a storage house for feed and also used as a chicken house. It has a low-pitched gable roof and walls are weatherboarded.

(No. HS 19) Hay Equipment Storage

A frame shed used as farm equipment storage. It is 5-bay with sides enclosed with vertical boarding.

✓ (No. HS 20) Circular Storage

Stone silo used to store feed. A stone masonry structure, approximately 20 feet high.

(No. HS 21) Tenant House

This is a mid-19th century frame residence, rectangular in plan, with a full-length 4-bay shed porch supported by posts. Gable roof has central brick chimney on ridge. Foundation is made of stone masonry. Used as a tenant house and as goat quarters by the Sandburgs.

✓ (No. HS 22) Gazebo

Frame gazebo completely enclosed with criss-crossed slats. Hip roof.

✓ (No. HS 23) Goat House

Rectangular frame shed used as goat quarters. Some of the upper portions of the walls have been removed to provide openings.

✓ (No. HS 24-27) Isolation Huts

Frame structures used as goat isolation quarters.

No. 24 A small frame gable roof structure; one story, walls made of weatherboarding.

No. 25 1½ story half-log structure with gable roof. Single 6-pane window in end wall.

No. 26 Shed roof with vertical board walls.

No. 27 Gable roof; in half story is single window, 4 panes. Vertical board walls.

✓ (No. HS 28) Ice House

Cylindrical fitted stone structure, placed below ground level. Some portions are in ruins. Used for ice storage.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Carl Sandburg ITEM NUMBER 17 PAGE 4

(No. HS 29) Chicken House

Frame, board and batten one-story shed with end aperture and gable roof; used as a chicken house. Built circa mid-19th century.

✓ (No. HS 30) Wood Shed

Frame shed, one-half constructed as open-air storage and other half as semi-enclosed space. Used as a wood shed.

✓ (No. HS 31) Cow Shed

Frame gable roof shed with 3 sides enclosed with vertical boards. It has 2-bays and no foundation. Used as a cow shed.

(No. HS 32) Water Fountain

Cement circular pool with two-tiered decorative fountain in center.



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CONTINUATION SHEET Carl Sandburg      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 1

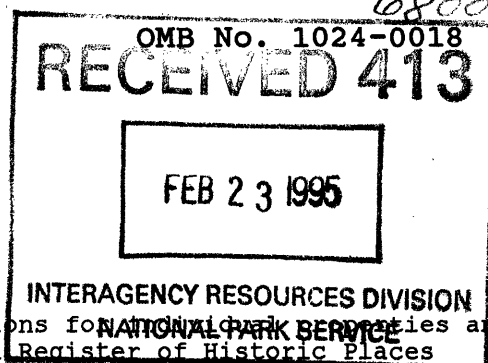
The Sandburgs lived simply here. While he moved easily among the great and famous, Carl Sandburg never affected big city "sophistication". In the house, the windows were uncurtained, the furniture functional, and no one worried about the dogs or children ruining an heirloom. Outside, the woods, pastures, trails and ponds also reflected his informal, basic needs and tastes. Together, the land, buildings and furnishings embody the character of Carl Sandburg more vividly than any other place with which he was associated.

He was characterized by Lyndon B. Johnson in these words:

"Carl Sandburg was more than the voice of America, more than the poet of its strength and genius. He was America. We knew and cherished him as the bard of democracy, the echo of the people, our conscience, and chronicler of truth and beauty and purpose."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (Additional Documentation)

other names/site number Connemara, The Carl Sandburg Farm (NHL Designation)

**2. Location**

street & number 1928 Little River Road

city or town Flat Rock not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
state North Carolina code NC county Henderson vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
zip code 28731-9766 code 089

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Benny Lachmitt 2/21/95  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register

☒ other (explain): Additional

Documentation approved Mal M. V. V. 3/9/95  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed properties in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>20</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>	structures
		objects
		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 33

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling, secondary structure

Agriculture/animal facility, agricultural outbuilding, field, storage

Landscape/garden, object

Recreation/outdoor recreation

Transportation/road-related and pedestrian-related

Other/waterworks

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/National Historic Site

Recreation and Culture: outdoor

recreation, theater

Transportation/road-related and pedestrian-related

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-nineteenth century/Greek Revival

Other/twentieth-century frame

agricultural buildings

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: granite, concrete,

walls: wood/weatherboard & board and batten, plank, split-log, granite, concrete

roof: asphalt roll, slate, aluminum wood/shingle

other: wire mesh; earth; cultivated plant material

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

*Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)*

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☒ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

*Areas of Significance*

*(Enter categories from instructions)*

Literature \_\_\_\_\_  
Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
Landscape Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
Agriculture \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Period of Significance*

1838-1888 \_\_\_\_\_  
1900-1967 \_\_\_\_\_

*Significant Dates*

1838, 1900, 1925, 1945 \_\_\_\_\_  
1968 \_\_\_\_\_

*Significant Person*

*(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)*

Sandburg, Carl \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Cultural Affiliation*

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
Henry T. Farmer, Jr.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☒ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Southern Historical Collection, University of No. Carolina  
Carl Sandburg National Historic Site, Flat Rock, NC

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 246

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	368710	3904140	D	17	367690	3904470
B	17	367200	3902880	E			
C	17	368190	3902560	F			
			See continuation sheet.				

*Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)*

There is no change in the existing district boundary.

*Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)*

#### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maureen A. Carroll, Historian; Lucy Lawliss, Historical Landscape Architect; Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian

organization National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

date February 10, 1995

street & number 75 Spring Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 331-5988

city or town Atlanta

state GA

zip code 30303

#### Additional Documentation

*Submit the following items with the completed form:*

Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Because the existing district boundaries will not change, a USGS map will not be submitted with this addendum.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Photographs of all contributing buildings will be submitted with this addendum.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 7

Page 1

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

Amendment to the National Register of Historic Places  
for  
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site District

This documentation amends the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (NHS) District, which was entered in the National Register January 20, 1978. This amendment clarifies the periods and areas of significance for the properties listed and adds contributing historic structures and landscape features, including vegetation, which were omitted from the earlier district nomination. The district boundaries will remain the same. Photographs of the additional contributing properties keyed to a site map are included (see Figure 1, Historical Base Map and attached Photograph Key).

The estate's original owner and developer, Christopher Memminger, a South Carolina statesman and Secretary of the Treasury of the Confederate States of America, established the property's boundaries, laid out the major landscape features of the site, and erected the first dwellings on the estate he named Rock Hill. During his years of ownership, 1838 to 1888, Memminger established the principal spatial relationships and landscape features that defined the estate's setting, which included siting the main house, with its distant view of the Blue Ridge mountains, and composing the residence's immediate setting with a front lawn and a formal three-tiered fountain. On a broader scale, Memminger cleared the front pasture, constructed a lake and dam, and laid out a serpentine entrance drive lined with white pines and entered by two stone gates. Other significant features included American elms and boxwood near the house, associated outbuildings, and a large vegetable garden bordered with boxwood. The site plan developed by Memminger, although later enlarged and altered by subsequent residents, remains largely intact throughout the estate's period of significance, 1838-1967.

After a period of neglect, Ellison Adger Smyth, a well-respected South Carolina textile industrialist and businessman, purchased Rock Hill and renamed the estate Connemara for its resemblance to his Irish ancestral homeland. The third owner of the estate, Smyth expanded and formalized the use of the property as a Country Place Era estate from 1900 when he acquired the property until his death in 1942. Smyth erected most of the extant farm buildings, stone walls, and wire fence lines; built the trout and duck ponds, the mountain reservoir, and the side lake and dam; and enlarged the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plantings, which included carefully clipped boxwood. To further enjoy his creation, Smyth installed seats and benches to observe the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 7                      Page 2

landscape. Finally, the industrialist turned country gentleman established and oversaw a rigorous maintenance schedule for the grounds and employed a full-time and seasonal staff to manage the estate.

The Sandburg's moved to Connemara to ensure a more hospitable climate for Carl to live and work in and to provide a suitable place for Paula to continue her prize-winning goat operation. Despite their attraction to the physical beauty of Connemara established by Memminger and Smyth, the Sandburg's implemented changes in the landscape during their residency, from 1945 to 1967, that reflected their pragmatic approach to life. Overall, the Sandburg's altered many of the landscape features established by Memminger and Smyth for two reasons: because Paula Sandburg's goat operation demanded changes, particularly in the use of farm buildings and general land use, and because of sporadic maintenance and benign neglect of the ornamental landscape resulting from lack of help to maintain the carefully designed landscape or lack of interest in the formal landscape features established by Smyth and Memminger. To meet her goat-raising needs, Paula reorganized the pastures and fenced pens and altered nearly all the buildings, dwellings, and outbuildings.

The Sandburgs released most of the estate from the rigors of regular maintenance and allowed some of Smyth's creations to disintegrate. Nevertheless, the family enjoyed spending solitary moments perched on the exposed granite outcroppings, hiking the trails built by Memminger and Smyth, and gazing at the Blue Ridge Mountains from the front porch of the main house. The designed estate as developed by Memminger and Smyth, although formalized, appealed to Paula Sandburg's needs, and the landscape, in a more natural state, inspired Carl Sandburg's imagination.

### **Description of Historic Resources**

#### *Previously Listed Resources*

*Main House, HS 1, 1838.* A 65 by 63 foot, one-and-one-half-story, four-bay, frame Greek Revival house with a rear shed addition. The original house has a raised, coursed, granite basement, side-gable roof, pedimented front porch with Doric columns supported by brick piers, front and rear gabled window dormers, and three corbelled chimneys with triple-arched brick hoods. The shed addition includes a modern kitchen and two bedrooms and a three-bay projection on the southwest corner. A screened porch and a green house were added to the west elevation, and a porte cochere was added to the southeast corner. Details include: fluted wood columns, a three-bay oriel, weatherboard siding, slate

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 7                      Page 3

roof, decorative transoms, and bulls-eye corner blocks. The NPS has stabilized the dwelling but still needs to investigate a Sandburg-period restoration. The interior is historically furnished on most of the main floor and the half-story. The basement is used as a gift shop and tour information center.

*Garage (Memminger Kitchen), HS 2, 1839.* A one-story, three-bay, 30 by 25 by 19 foot, frame garage with a side-gable roof, rear ell and shed additions, beveled siding, continuous, coursed, granite foundation, concrete floor, and plaster interior walls. The three bays have twelve-panel garage doors with four horizontally banded windows. The Sandburgs altered the kitchen building for use as an additional garage located closer to the main house. The driveway to the garage was paved with asphalt in 1962, and the garage alteration likely dates to this period. Historic photographs of the building indicate it had two entries and a central chimney similar to the wash house. The NPS has rehabilitated this building and uses it to provide visitor orientation to the site and a slide show on the life of Carl Sandburg.

*Wash House, HS 5, 1839-40.* A 30½ by 16½ by 19½ foot, two-bay, saddlebag building constructed using mortise and tenon framing and handsawn roof members that retains some original door and window hardware. The building has a central brick chimney, coursed granite piers with brick infill, plank doors and shutters, and a side-gable, raised-seam metal roof. Two cast-iron washpots set on brick foundations are still in place in the northern half. The building was used by the Sandburgs to house chickens and kid goats and sustained some alterations including, two goat doors and a ramp on the north elevation and the removal of stairs or a porch on the west elevation. NPS has rehabilitated the exterior of the building and retained all of the Sandburg period alterations.

*Swedish House, HS 3, 1838.* A 26½ by 19 by 28 foot, one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, frame house with a steeply pitched side-gable, raised-seam metal roof. The dwelling has a single shoulder stone and brick chimney, a continuous, coursed granite foundation, decorative bargeboards, and beveled siding. The first floor has a Penn plan with plaster walls, pine floors, plank doors and shutters, and mid- to late-nineteenth century door and window hardware. A narrow, enclosed stair provides access to the finished half-story. The Sandburgs installed bookshelves throughout the house and used the dwelling for storage. The NPS has rebuilt the chimney and replaced most of the rotted window sashes.

*Tenant House, HS 4, 1888-1900.* A 28½ by 28 by 16 foot, L-plan, four-bay, frame cottage with a side-gable roof, central chimney, and a shed-roofed front

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 7                      Page 4

porch extension. The dwelling is clad in weatherboard and has a continuous, coursed, granite foundation, two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash windows, a concrete porch floor, and a stove chimney stack on the north elevation. This building has been moved historically several times within the estate boundaries, and the interior was gutted in 1975 for use as an archival storage facility. There are plans to rehabilitate the building for use as a restroom.

*Spring House, HS 7, 1853.* A square, log or heavy timber frame building with board-and-batten siding and a pyramidal, shingle roof. The building has a continuous, coursed, granite foundation, plaster interior walls, and a concrete floor. The building is also known as the cheese house and smoke house, but it was built as a spring house. The Sandburgs used the building to store cheese, likely because it kept the product cool, a use that is historically compatible. The cement floor was probably added by the Sandburgs, although Smyth did use cement in many of his constructions throughout the property. NPS rehabilitated this structure in the mid-1970s.

*Woodshed, HS 6, 1900-1945.* A six-bay, 45½ by 16½ by 11½ foot, rectangular frame shed with a side-gable roof, continuous, coursed, granite foundation, vertical-board sheathing, and a dirt floor. The Sandburgs apparently used the woodshed as a storage area. The NPS rebuilt the foundation walls in the 1970s and continues to store miscellaneous articles in the shed.

*Pump House, HS 8, 1900-1925.* A 13 by 8 by 6 foot, rectangular structure with a shed roof, weatherboard walls, and a continuous concrete foundation. A concrete-block addition on the northeast elevation houses the pump. One fixed light faces north towards the wash house. Smyth probably constructed this pump house before his family permanently moved to Connemara in 1925. It is unknown when the addition was added, but it is likely that the Sandburgs added a new pump in the late 1940s when the house underwent modifications.

*Greenhouse (Root/Apple Cellar), HS 9, 1850-1880.* This 18 by 28 by 6½ foot, rectangular, one-bay, front-gable building is built into a gentle slope south of the caretaker's house and has a continuous, coursed, stone foundation, dug-out interior, and a dirt floor. The modified roof consists of glass panels on the southwest corner, sheet metal on the north, and asphalt shingle roofing material on the south. The Sandburgs may have used the building as a potting shed. The interior has two parts divided by a coursed stone wall. The NPS has rehabilitated this structure as a potting shed.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 7                      Page 5

*Barn Pump House, HS 10, 1900-1945.* A 7 by 12 by 4 foot, rectangular, concrete pump house and reservoir located south of the root cellar. The structure has a slightly convex roof, a bolted steel opening, and a concrete-block addition with a wood roof. Three 1,500-gallon reservoirs are located below grade and were added by the NPS in the 1970s. Smyth erected this pump house to provide water to the barn area. The Sandburgs also used the pump house for the same purpose.

*Caretaker's House (Farm Manager's House), HS 11, 1912.* A 35 by 55 by 26 foot, one-and-one-half-story, wood frame, three-bay, double-pile, side-gable cottage with a central hall plan, a continuous, coursed, granite foundation, and a gabled-ell addition. The principal roof is steeply pitched and pierced by an interior stone chimney. The hip-roofed front porch is centered and has plain posts and a concrete floor. The rear ell addition has a shed porch with chamfered posts. NPS has rehabilitated the building and uses it as the park's administrative office.

*Buck House #2 (Bull Barn), HS 12, 1900-1925.* A 14 by 15 by 14½ foot, frame barn with a steeply pitched, front-gable roof, and a continuous, coursed, granite foundation. Sheathed in weatherboard and wide-gauge planks, the barn has a hay loft opening above the main entry and a cut-out goat door on the north elevation. A wire and plank fence encloses a pen north of the building. The NPS has stabilized the building.

*Barn Garage (Equipment Garage), HS 13, 1925.* A 45 by 21 by 21 foot, four-bay, frame garage with a side-gable roof, weatherboard sheathing, and paired, vertical-panel garage doors with three-part lights. A wide overhanging eave extends over the bays approximately two feet. The garage has a poured concrete floor, nine-over-nine windows, and a circular gable-end vent. Built by Smyth to house his stable of automobiles, the garage currently displays Sandburg-era farm vehicles.

*Corn Crib, HS 14, 1900-1925.* A 5½ by 13 by 14½ foot, open-lath, wood frame building raised off the ground on four locust posts. Crib walls are slightly canted and are lined with chicken wire. The front-gable roof is steeply pitched. The crib is located in the center of the main barn yard.

*Stock Barn #1, HS 15, 1900-1925.* A 16½ by 20 by 19½ foot, one-story, two-bay, barn with a front-gable roof, weatherboard and board-and-batten walls, and a rear shed addition. A hay loft opening is located in the steeply pitched gable and accessed by an exterior ladder. The foundation is continuous, coursed,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 7                      Page 6

granite rubble. The rear shed addition has two porch posts and two vertical board endwalls.

*Main Barn (Stock Barn #2), HS 16, 1900-1925.* A large, 80 by 44 foot, rectangular, side-gable, frame barn with a central, paired-door entry, a gabled cupola, a hay loft hood, and side and rear shed additions. The side shed, described as the oxen shed, has a continuous, coursed, rubble wall, approximately three feet high, and a dirt floor. The barn floor is concrete. The rear shed served as a milking barn and office space for Paula Sandburg. The hay loft collapsed during the Sandburg residency and was replaced by them. Currently, the NPS raises approximately thirty goats in the barn area and uses the barn to orient visitors to the descendants of Paula Sandburg's herd.

*Milk House, HS 16A, 1947.* A 14½ by 17½ by 16½ foot, T-plan, rough-faced concrete-block building with a cross-gable roof and exposed rafter ends. The building has a gabled covered way connected to the milking barn and two entries on the east facade. A third entry faces north and opens onto a pasture. Interior material is concrete, and a stair provides access to the half-story. Only half of the building is currently open to the public.

*Stock Barn (Horse Barn), HS 17, 1900-1925.* A 20½ by 31 by 19 foot, rectangular, one-and-one-half-story, wood frame, front-gable barn with a steeply pitched, aluminum roof, and a full-size entry for the hay loft, which is accessed by an exterior ladder. The barn is clad in weatherboard and has an aluminum roof vent and a Dutch door on the main facade. Another entry on the west facade leads to an enclosed passage to the main barn, and an earthen ramp supported by coursed stone walls is located on the east elevation. The stone silo abuts the north elevation. The interior features three animal stalls on the west wall. NPS has stabilized this building.

*Silo, HS 20, 1900-1925.* A 17½ foot high and 14 foot diameter silo constructed of coursed, squared-off, granite blocks. The silo has no roof and the west entry is sealed. A seven-rung iron ladder on the north elevation has been altered to prevent access. It is probable that Smyth stored grain in this silo to feed those animals in the adjacent stable.

*Feed House, HS 18, 1945.* A 12 by 12 by 10 foot, wood frame, single-bay, side-gable building with a rear shed addition that serves as a hay manger. The main feed house has weatherboard siding with a plank door and a concrete floor. The rear shed addition has vertical plank siding and the building is enclosed by a wire pen. The building currently houses chickens.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 7                      Page 7

*Hay Equipment Storage (Wood Shaving Shed), HS 19, 1960-1963.* A 41½ by 18 by 18½ foot, rectangular, five-bay, frame shed with vertical-board siding, asphalt roll roofing, and a dirt floor. The shed has two sliding doors on casters. Carpenter bee infestation is affecting the structural integrity of this outbuilding.

*Buck Quarters, HS 21, 1838.* A 30 by 34½ by 17 foot frame saddlebag dwelling of post and beam construction with mortise and tenon joints. This two-bay house has a full-facade, front shed porch with sapling posts and a dirt floor, and a rear shed addition set on a continuous, coursed, granite foundation. The building has weatherboard siding, a boxed cornice with a beveled soffit, and a pedimented gable end. Interior materials are mixed nineteenth and twentieth century and are badly deteriorated. The Sandburgs used this dwelling, located north of the barn area, as a buck isolation quarters and created several cut-out doors on the rear addition. It is believed that this was one of the earliest dwellings on the Memminger estate and may have served as temporary quarters for the family or seasonal laborers.

*Gazebo, HS 22, 1900-1945.* An octagonal, 10½ foot high and 13 foot diameter wood post and lattice gazebo with an eight-sided pyramidal shingle roof and a tongue-and-groove floor elevated on granite piers. A wood bench lines the interior walls on seven sides. Located immediately south of the flower garden, the NPS rehabilitated the original building, which fell into disrepair during the Sandburg occupancy.

*Donkey House (Goat House), HS 23, 1945-1960.* A 11 by 14½ by 8½ foot, wood frame shed with one bay and two interior stalls. The shed has an asphalt roll roof, dirt floor, a board-and-batten partition, paneled door, several unglazed clerestory openings, and two feed troughs. The shed is located south of the front pasture and is enclosed by wire fencing.

*Isolation Hut # 1 (Jennifer's House), HS 24, 1945-1948.* A 11 by 10 by 8 foot, front-gable, single-bay, crudely framed building with vertical-plank, board-and-batten, and weatherboard sheathing. Roof has red asphalt roll over boards. A covered manger sits in the northeast corner of a wide-gauge wire fence enclosure. This hut is one of two located south of the main drive immediately east of the vegetable garden.

*Isolation Hut #2, HS 25, 1945-1948.* A 8 by 10 by 10 foot, front-gable, crudely framed hut built into a wire fence line with an earthfast foundation. The exterior is clad in split logs with the bark intact. The doors are plank, and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 7                      Page 8

the north gable end has one fixed, six-light window. This building is listing and likely has deteriorated sills.

*Isolation Hut #3 (Buck House), HS 26, 1945-1948.* A 11½ by 11 by 6½ foot, wood frame shed with an earthfast foundation, aluminum shed roof, vertical-board sheathing, and wire mesh and plank shutters over the openings. It is located west of the barn in the milk house pasture.

*Isolation Hut #4, HS 27, 1945-1948.* A 10 by 9 by 8½ foot, front-gable, single-bay, wood frame building with vertical plank siding and an earthfast foundation located north of hut #3, adjacent to the milk house pasture.

*Ice House Ruins, HS 28, 1848.* A 15 foot diameter, 3 to 4 foot deep, below-grade, stone-lined pit filled with debris and soil and partially covered with turf. Several courses of granite block are exposed along the rim because the pit is sunken in the center. These exposed courses represent the remains of a deep, stone-lined pit that stored ice gathered from the frozen lakes. According to historic photographs, a gabled structure with decorative bargeboards and siding sheltered the pit. NPS filled the pit in the 1970s, but the ice house structure had collapsed in the 1950s.

*Caretaker's (Farm Manager's) Chicken House, HS 29, 1912-1925.* A 10 by 10 foot, square, board-and-batten building with a weatherboard foundation skirt and a dry-laid, granite foundation. This front-gable building has a single-bay with a wire mesh screen door and beveled rafter ends. The interior has roosts and a dirt floor.

*Caretaker's (Farm Manager's) Woodshed, HS 30, 1945-1950.* A 18 by 11 by 8½ foot, rectangular, shed-roof, partially enclosed structure with vertical plank siding on the northeast, east, and southeast elevations and built upon six earthfast locust posts. The structure was reconstructed by the NPS in the 1980s.

*Cow Shed, HS 31, 1945-1950.* A 14 by 16 foot, front-gable, two-bay shed with vertical-board sheathing and an earthfast foundation. Located southwest of the side lake, approximately 500 feet south of Little River Road, the shed is built into a wide-gauge, wire fence enclosure on the south and east. A gate leads to the martin house pasture. The shed has a new roof, but the sheathing members are deteriorating. The NPS uses the shed for storage.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 7                      Page 9

*Fountain Pool, HS 32, 1853.* A 15 foot diameter, shallow, concave concrete pool, approximately two feet deep, with a polished granite ashlar coping. The pool is heavily silted and houses goldfish. A drain pipe is located on the north side of the pool, toward the front terraces and the front pasture. The Sandburgs removed a three-part, cast-iron fountain piece from the pool shortly after they purchased the estate. The pool is centered on a grassed lawn area, measuring approximately 140 by 25 foot. During the Sandburg era, the grass reached heights of 4 to 5 inches before mowing.

#### **Additional Contributing Resources**

*Front Lake, Dam and Bridge, HS 35 and 39, 1855, 1900-1925, 1980-1981.* The dam consists of a 170 foot, crescent-shaped, earthen embankment, which crests at 13 to 20 feet, with a 47 foot, coursed granite spillway and two wing walls, 20 and 27 feet long respectively, that support the earthen dam and serve as abutments for the footbridge. The spillway wall is experiencing some leakage although it was rehabilitated by the NPS in 1981. The lake is clear of most aquatic vegetation. The footbridge, reconstructed by NPS in 1981, replicates the bridge constructed by Smyth that was removed by the Sandburgs between 1950 and 1962 after it had deteriorated.

*Front Pasture, c. 1839.* Cleared before Front Lake dam was constructed, likely at the same time the house was built, the pasture consists of a rectangular area, approximately 400 by 500 feet, sited north of the main house between the serpentine drive & Front Lake. It has been maintained as a pasture, or open area, throughout the estate's history.

*Duck Pond and Dam, HS 37, 1900-1945.* A crescent-shaped, earthen and coursed granite dam that creates a pond, which is fed by a spring channeled through a concrete pipe culvert under the back drive. The earthen berm is situated to the east, and the dam and spillway are on the west. The spillway has a concrete splash apron and drain pipe. A retaining wall, located west of the barn complex on the northeast side of the back drive, was rebuilt by the NPS to carry park and tour vehicles.

*Side Lake and Dam, HS 40, 1925.* A 132 foot long by 12 foot high, coursed granite dam with rubble fill built on top of granite bedrock. The cement coping is in fair condition, and the splash apron is stabilized with riprap. The triangular lake edge is grassed. Lake siltation is evident on the north

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 7                      Page 10

and south banks. The Sandburgs constructed a wire gate on the dam to keep the goats in side pastures off the dam. The NPS stabilized the dam in 1981.

*Trout Pond and Dam, HS 41, 1925.* A 62 by 2 by 7 foot, stone and concrete dam built into a rock outcropping with a rock-faced spillway wall on the north. Located south of the back drive and vegetable garden, the dam abuts an outcropping on the west. Prior to the NPS stabilization of the dam and pond in 1980-1981, treefalls, excessive siltation, and structural damage to the dam caused the pond to drain. Now, further stabilization work is necessary because the cement coping is fractured and deteriorating, and leakage on the east abutment has created an erosional gully.

*Big Glassy Mountain Reservoir, HS 42, 1900-1925.* A 30 foot long and 4 foot high concrete dam located approximately 1200 feet south along the Big Glassy Mountain trail. The dam was built to gravity-feed Big Glassy spring water to the pump house behind the main house and the barn area. The Sandburgs maintained this water source in case of fire and had the reservoir periodically dredged. Now the reservoir is silted, and there appears to be some leakage at the base of the dam.

*Elm Tree Wall, HS 38, 1900-1945.* A 50 by 1½ by 1½ foot coursed, dry-laid, granite wall erected to protect a mature American elm in the barn yard. The granite blocks may have come from a Memminger-era building foundation. The diseased elm was felled in a storm in 1985 and an elm sapling has been planted in its place.

*Stone Drains, HS 44 A-E, 1845-1856.* Consists of 1200 linear feet of stone-lined drains, approximately 18 inches wide and one foot deep and constructed of fieldstones. The drains are located along the entrance drive and emanate from high areas near the house past the farm buildings to the pastures. The NPS has restored some of the drains.

*Back Drive Entrance Gate, HS 49, 1853.* Entrance consists of two, 3 foot square and 6 foot high, coursed granite pedestals, approximately fourteen feet apart with a three-part, granite capstone. The east post has been moved to accommodate tour buses and park vehicles. The gate enclosure is a modern, chain-link swing gate.

*Main Entrance Gate, HS 48, 1853.* Entrance consists of two, coursed granite retaining walls, 13 and 47 feet long respectively, that flank the front entrance drive. The walls are 3 feet high on the road elevation and drop down

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 7                      Page 11

approximately 10 feet to a box culvert that crosses under the driveway for a length of 32 feet. The culvert drains the run-off from Little River Road under the driveway. The walls are covered with ivy and terminate at two, 2 by 2 by 6 foot, coursed granite pedestals, also ivy-covered, connected by a wood and steel slatted swing gate. The coping on the walls and gate posts is granite.

*Serpentine Entrance Drive, HS 45, 1838-1853.* The main drive is the primary access and egress to the site and consists of front and back drive, which is characterized by rock wall sections, stone gutters, white pines, hemlocks, rhododendrons, and dogwoods. The main entrance drive and a carriage drive in front of the main house constitute the approximately 6000 linear feet of gravel and asphalt-surfaced roads within the park that link the house and farm buildings to the Little River Road. The front drive, beginning at the front gates, has a serpentine alignment that was originally lined with white pines and later formalized by the introduction of rock wall sections, stone gutters, and boxwood along the upper drive. The Sandburgs planted hemlocks to supplement the loss of aging white pines.

*Serpentine Drive Retaining Walls, HS 36, 1900-1925.* There are 4149 linear feet of 3 to 4 foot high, square-block walls and fieldstone curbing, both dry-laid and mortared, that served as retaining walls, culvert walls, and driveway trim. Most walls line the main drive, but some are located on walkways between the buildings and correct grade changes throughout the property. The NPS has stabilized or restored most of the historic walls within the property.

*Vegetable Garden c. 1840.* A rectangular vegetable garden, measuring approximately 350 feet long and 125 feet wide, with a center path that runs north-south along the long axis. One boxwood remains in the southwest corner of the garden, a remnant of a perimeter boxwood hedge that enclosed the entire garden.

*Apple Orchard, c. 1840.* The orchard consists of a V-shaped area, measuring approximately 300 feet long and 150 feet wide, located south of the vegetable garden and north of the Trout Pond, characterized by approximately a dozen untended apple trees. The species of these trees is unknown.

*Summer Flower Garden, 1900-1945.* The summer garden consists of a 150 foot long by 50 foot wide, chain-link fenced flower garden established by Smyth and maintained by Paula Sandburg. A path divides the area into four sections. The latticed gazebo is located southeast of the garden.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 7                      Page 12

*Main House Landscape, c. 1900-1967.* Flower beds and foundation plantings are located on all elevations of the main house, but are best preserved from the Sandburg era on the north and east elevations and in the lily garden, dahlia and zinnia bed, and the bird feeder area. Several specimen trees including a ginkgo, a magnolia, and American elms that line the drive survive from the Smyth occupation and contribute to the overall setting of the Sandburg-era landscape.

*Big Glassy Mountain and Memminger Trails, HS 46, 1848, 1925-1942.* These two dirt-surfaced trails, built before the Sandburg residency, share a trace for approximately 1200 feet and then diverge. The oldest trail, built by Memminger, loops south and east of the main house; the other trail proceeds in a southwesterly direction to the Big Glassy Mountain overlook. Both trails have a mixed rock and dirt surface, wood erosional stops, and below-grade drainage pipe culverts.

*Duck Cage, HS 34, 1945.* A 6 by 12 by 6 foot, post and wire mesh, earthfast, cage, located on the south shore of side lake. The cage has an opening on the lake side for ducks and human entry from the south shore. This cage was built to protect the flock of ducks Helga Sandburg settled on the lake. Currently, the cage is overgrown with weeds and grass, but the vegetation is occasionally cut back to preserve the structure.

*Hog Pen, HS 33, c. 1945-1967.* A 10 foot square, single-pen, frame, front-gable outbuilding with one off-center entry, half-log sheathing, a wood shingle roof, a rear ramp that leads to a fenced pasture, and a plank floor. Located south and west of the isolation huts, this pen may have been used by the Sandburgs to house hogs. This pen is in an isolated field south of the main drive and suffers from moisture and invasive vegetation.

#### **Noncontributing Structures**

Visitor Parking Area  
Visitor Contact Kiosk  
Maintenance Area Buildings (3)  
Bally Building  
Front Lake Trail

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 13

### ***Significance***

As originally listed, the district was significant for its association with the life of Carl Sandburg, and the nomination focused on the Sandburg residence at Connemara. This statement will not change. The property's primary significance still rests in its association with Sandburg, a nationally significant literary figure. However, the lay out and development of the property, including the main house, outbuildings, and other dwellings, and most of the landscape features, particularly the front lake and dam, side lake and dam, serpentine drive through the property, front and rear entrances, stone retaining walls, reservoirs, and the stone-lined drains, are attributable to earlier design efforts. The design and construction history of the Connemara estate is important to understanding the appeal of the property to the Sandburgs and will help the NPS maintain the site's original designed landscape and associated historic fabric as the Sandburgs knew it.

The district possesses three periods of significance: the Memminger Period, 1838 to 1888, the Smyth Period, 1900 to 1945, and the Sandburg Period, 1945 to 1967. Each period of significance represents a change in ownership, use of the property, and treatment of the physical setting. For approximately twelve years, between 1888 and 1900, the property was owned by Captain William Gregg, but the Greggs never occupied the estate and no changes were made. Thus, the Gregg occupation is omitted from this amendment to the National Register nomination.

#### *Memminger Period, 1838-1888*

Christopher Memminger, a Charleston businessman and South Carolina statesman, established a summer residence in the Flat Rock vicinity in October 1838 by purchasing 143.5 acres of land from another Charlestonian, Charles Baring. Memminger followed Baring and others to the hills of North Carolina to escape the summer heat and sickness typical in swampy, low country areas like Charleston. By 1850, Memminger had increased his Rock Hill estate by 205 acres, and his holdings encompassed the crests of Big and Little Glassy mountains and stretched north toward the base of Trenholm Mountain.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Susan K. Hart, *Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, Cultural Landscape Report* (Atlanta: National Park Service, 1993), 13-16. C. Craig Frazier and John C. Paige, "Historic Structure Report for Carl Sandburg National Historic Site, Henderson County, North Carolina: Front Lake and Dam,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 8

Page 14

Between 1838 and 1855, Memminger laid out a county estate across the rolling terrain of Flat Rock. Judging from the structure and features of the landscape that remain from the Memminger period, the estate mimics the "beautiful" style described by Andrew Jackson Downing, the landscape tastemaker of the day, in his popular text *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening, Adapted to North America*, first published in 1841. As defined by Downing, the "beautiful" consisted of "an undulating plain of emerald turf; noble groups of roundheaded trees interspersed with specimens with foliage drooping to the turf beneath them; the sky reflected in a sylvan lake with banks covered with flowers and shrubs."<sup>2</sup> An 1893 biography of C. G. Memminger describes the estate in very much the same terms: "Its lake of pure water, its greensward, its beautiful hills and grand forest trees, among which graveled walks and carriage drives lead up to the seat of a noble hospitality. . . ."<sup>3</sup> Although no plan that documents an overall design for the estate exists, Memminger hired professional gardeners from Charleston who would have been familiar with Downing's popular landscape design ideas, which clearly influenced the estate's landscape design.<sup>4</sup>

Layout and construction of the main house, located on the north slope of Little Glassy Mountain, began in 1838. At the same time, Memminger built several dependencies behind the house as guest quarters, servants quarters, and utility buildings. The Swedish house, kitchen, wash house, spring house, and woodshed all contributed to maintaining the Memminger residence. Another house, later known as the tenant house and buck isolation quarters and located northwest of the main development, may have served as temporary quarters for the Memminger family, their servants, or laborers. Memminger also maintained a carriage house, corn crib, and wagon shed on the property, but these buildings are no longer extant. Finally, two stone-lined cellars, one an ice storage pit and

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Side Lake and Dam, Pond Bridge, and Duck Cage," unpublished draft, Denver Service Center, (October 1979), 8.

<sup>2</sup>Geoffrey Jellicoe, Susan Jellicoe, Patrick Goode, and Michael Lancaster, eds. *The Oxford Companion to Gardens*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986), 145.

<sup>3</sup>Hart, 18.

<sup>4</sup>Hart, 19.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 15

the other a root cellar, lay astride the lane that meandered through the property (see Photograph Key, Structures 28 and 9).

By the mid-1840s, Memminger had constructed most of the dwellings and secondary buildings; had established a serpentine drive through the northeastern part of the property; and had cleared the slope immediately north of the main house for use as a front pasture. Later in the decade, Memminger constructed a loop trail along the crest of Little Glassy Mountain and laid out a large rectangular vegetable garden enclosed by American boxwood, which supplied the family with fresh vegetables in the summer. After acquiring a 15-acre tract from A. S. Willington that included the spring on Glassy Mountain, Memminger installed a fountain, fed by the spring, in front of the main house and established a lawn as early as 1853.<sup>5</sup>

Memminger greatly improved access to and within the property. Originally, Crab Tree Creek Road provided entry to the property from the north.<sup>6</sup> However, in 1850, Memminger and his neighbor, Andrew Johnston, authorized the construction of Little River Road, which probably paralleled the Crab Tree Creek Road near the Memminger property.<sup>7</sup> After completing construction of the Little River Road, Memminger had stone hauled to his property for the construction of an entry gate on the road, consisting of a coursed granite culvert, wall, and gate posts.<sup>8</sup> The entrance opened upon a serpentine crushed-stone drive lined with

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<sup>5</sup>Hart, 16.

<sup>6</sup>The Crab Tree Creek Road, described as an old Indian path in a 1792 land grant, ran from the Crab Creek section to Flat Rock in 1816. At Flat Rock it joined another Indian path called Willow Trail, which ran along Willow Creek through the Boiling Springs campground across wooded Flat Rock estates to the old post office. Sadie Smothers Patton, *A Condensed History of Flat Rock: The Little Charleston of the Mountains* (Hickory, North Carolina: Hickory Printing Group, Inc., 1961), 5.

<sup>7</sup>Patton describes the opening of Little River Road in 1850, but does not indicate whether the road replaced the Crab Tree Creek Road. "The Little River Road, by which the bushwhackers were said to have come from Brevard had been opened through the public spirit of C. G. Memminger and Mr. Andrew Johnston in 1850, and the old Crab Creek Road [sic] from Pheasant Branch to Flat Rock was discontinued." Patton, 43.

<sup>8</sup>Hart, 16.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
name of property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
county and State

Section 8

Page 16

white pines. The drive forked approximately 200 feet northwest of the main house, and this cutoff provided access to the dwelling and a carriage turn-around. The main drive continued south and west to the carriage house and out again to the Little River Road (see Figure 1). A less elaborate back gate, consisting of two coursed granite gate posts, marked the rear gate.

Significant vegetation associated with the development of the estate by Memminger, in addition to the white pines along the entrance drive and boxwood enclosing the vegetable garden, are the American elms (*Ulmus americana*) and the boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) planted around the house.

Memminger's final development project at the estate was the front lake. In 1855, Henry Tudor Farmer, a local innkeeper, construction contractor, and furniture maker, constructed a dam spillway at the foot of the hill using stone from Memminger's quarry. It is unclear whether Farmer also engineered the crescent-shaped earthen dam that impounds the lake.<sup>9</sup>

Although the Memminger family continued to spend summers at Rock Hill throughout the 1860s and 1870s, no additional construction activity is evident. Christopher Memminger briefly reentered public life in the waning years of Reconstruction, but retired after serving one year in the South Carolina legislature. Rock Hill remained in the Memminger family until the death of Christopher in 1888.<sup>10</sup>

For twelve years, between 1888 and 1900, Captain William Gregg owned the Rock Hill estate, but there is no evidence that he ever occupied the property, although he hired a caretaker to reside on the estate.<sup>11</sup> Presumably, some

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<sup>9</sup>Craig and Frazier, 9, 42-43. Hart mentions that Memminger paid many hired hands over the years 1845-1856 to dig ditches throughout the property, probably for drainage. It is unknown whether the ditches were stone-lined when they were constructed; see Hart, 18.

<sup>10</sup>Louise Howe Bailey, *From "Rock Hill" to "Connemara": The Story Before Carl Sandburg* (Eastern National Park and Monument Association, 1980), 28-30.

<sup>11</sup>In 1865, Memminger deeded Rock Hill in trust to James Jones Gregg, but the Memminger family continued to occupy the estate until Memminger's death in 1888. After Memminger's death, Colonel William Gregg purchased the property for \$10,000. It is not clear what type of relationship Gregg and Memminger



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 17

elements of the estate fell into disrepair and required the attention of the subsequent owner, Ellison A. Smyth, a Greenville, South Carolina, industrialist and businessman.

*Smyth Period, 1900-1945*

Smyth purchased the Rock Hill estate for use as a summer and weekend retreat for his family and friends. A Charleston native, Smyth had amassed a considerable fortune in cotton textiles, beginning in 1881 with a mill and village in Pelzer, South Carolina. Within twenty years, Smyth had expanded his entrepreneurial talents into banking and publishing and served as director of thirty-six corporations and a dozen banks.<sup>12</sup> In 1900, at the height of a successful career, Smyth purchased Rock Hill from the Gregg estate.

Smyth initially viewed the estate, which he renamed Connemara after his ancestral homelands in Ireland, as a retreat for his family. Shortly after he purchased the property, Smyth began to make some improvements. Will Slattery, Gregg's former overseer, and Slattery's assistant, Ulysses Ballard, served as the property caretakers. Until 1925, when Smyth retired and permanently moved his family to Flat Rock, the Smyth family only visited the property in the summer and on temperate weekends; thus the property needed a full-time caretaker. Originally, Slattery might have lived north of the barn complex in a saddlebag house built by Memminger. Ballard and his family resided in a newer saddlebag house located south of the vegetable garden. In 1912 after Slattery had retired, Smyth built a house for his caretaker Ballard along with a chicken house and a fenced pen east of the barn complex. After Smyth erected the caretaker's house, servants and/or laborers resided in both of the saddlebag houses. During the Smyth period, the former Ballard house, originally located south of the vegetable garden, was moved alongside the

had, but it is possible that Memminger, as a cabinet member of the Confederate States of America, deeded his land to Gregg to protect his realty interests after the war. William Gregg may have been the son or heir of James Jones Gregg. Craig and Frazier, 11; Bailey, 44.

<sup>12</sup>Bailey, 36-37. See also William Plummer Jacobs, *The Pioneer* (Clinton, South Carolina: S.C. Jacobs and Co. Press, 1935), a biography that depicts Smyth as the epitome of the modern southern industrialist.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 18

caretaker's house.<sup>13</sup>

In the expansion of the agricultural operation, Smyth constructed several farm buildings adjacent to the caretaker's residence, likely before his family permanently moved to Connemara. These buildings included a barn, stable, bull barn, corn crib, woodshed, stone silo, squab pen, and several equipment sheds and would have served the needs of Ballard and his family as full-time residents and caretakers of the estate.<sup>14</sup>

Smyth also made changes to the main house. A side porch was added to the east facade between 1880 and 1901. Smyth altered the front porch in 1921 by removing the wood stair and replacing it with a concrete stair and landing. The porch gable treatment also changed with the addition of two sidelights flanking the main window. Prior to 1925, Smyth added a rear shed extension on the south facade consisting of a porch flanked by several rooms.<sup>15</sup> At this time, Smyth also may have added a small water closet off the west oriel, which was later changed to a small balcony,<sup>16</sup> and mimicked the original oriel design with a similar projecting bay added to the southeast corner.

After Smyth permanently moved his family to Connemara from Greenville, South Carolina, even more changes were made. In order to convert the summer home

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<sup>13</sup>Bailey, 44.

<sup>14</sup>The date of construction of these buildings is unknown although Ballard's wife recalls her husband built one of the buildings identified as the corn crib. The buildings share several construction characteristics with the caretaker's house and may date from the same era. These characteristics include: steeply pitched roofs, coursed, granite block foundations, and weatherboard siding; Bailey, 42. In an interview, one of Smyth's great-grandsons recalled that the buildings were constructed before the Smyths took up permanent residence, and likely were built in the 1910s; William McKay, telephone interview by Maureen A. Carroll, Atlanta, Georgia, 7 February 1994.

<sup>15</sup>This assessment is based on construction materials, photographs, and a floor plan drawn by the Smyth's granddaughter, Mrs. Rodgers, located in the park archives. See David H. Wallace, "Historic Furnishings Report: Main House and Swedish House at Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site," unpublished draft (Frederick, Maryland, 1984), 15, Appendix A; Bailey, photographs, 41.

<sup>16</sup>Wallace, 14.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 19

into a full-time residence, Smyth enclosed the rear porch of the main house making room for a pantry, a rear stair, and two additional rooms. Smyth added a coal-burning furnace in the basement and sealed the brick foundation under the rear addition.<sup>17</sup> A pump house, located southwest of the wash house, brought water to the main house from the spring on Glassy Mountain.<sup>18</sup> Some changes on the interior of the house also probably occurred including the addition of interior plumbing and closets.

Smyth transformed Connemara to a Country Place Era estate with the expansion and formalization of the agricultural, recreational, and ornamental use of the grounds. Smyth shaped the farm landscape at Connemara and greatly expanded the use of the property. The numerous farm buildings erected by Smyth indicate considerable interest in managing animals. Smyth erected fencing, consisting of strands of twisted steel, and established most of the pastures maintained later by the Sandburgs.<sup>19</sup> Several outbuildings located in the pastures may have been constructed by Smyth, including the cow shed, donkey barn, martin house, and the hog pen. Smyth also planted an apple orchard south of the vegetable garden near the trout pond.

For recreational purposes, Smyth constructed Side Lake and dam, c. 1925, and used the lake as a water source for farm animals and for the golf course he built in a side pasture. His grandchildren swam in Side Lake and Smyth stocked both lakes with large-mouthed bass for the enjoyment of his guests and family.<sup>20</sup> Smyth lengthened the Memminger trail on Glassy Mountain and constructed a reservoir to serve as an additional water supply. In addition, he probably constructed the trout pond, located adjacent to a rock outcropping south of the apple orchard, and the duck pond, located west of the barn complex.

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<sup>17</sup>Wallace, 11-15. Wallace discusses in detail the changes made by the Sandburgs to the house, but is less clear about the Smyth changes. The house had three baths, an enclosed rear addition, and an Iron Fireman coal-burning furnace in place when the Sandburgs purchased the property in 1945. It is likely that Smyth initiated these improvements, which suggest some permanency and year-round habitation.

<sup>18</sup>Hart, 24.

<sup>19</sup>Hart, 52, see Figure 3.35, Lakes and Pastures--Sandburg Period, 51.

<sup>20</sup>Hart, 19; Craig and Frazier, 13-14.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 20

Smyth significantly enlarged and formalized the ornamental landscape of Connemara by constructing retaining walls to the lower and middle portions of the serpentine entrance drive; creating circular flower beds on either side of the main house foundation; adding foundation plantings on the north and west elevations of the main house; adding three, possibly four, oval and rectangular flower beds edged in dwarf boxwood on the east side of the house; and establishing an enclosed flower garden accompanied by a latticed gazebo. Smyth also cultivated the yard immediately west of the residence, planting a magnolia and ginkgo, and hydrangeas and boxwood there. In addition, Smyth lined the serpentine entrance drive with stone walls and added ivy to the entrance gate on Little River Road.<sup>21</sup>

Smyth and his family greatly enjoyed Connemara and resided there until his death in 1942. The estate sat vacant for three years until Paula Sandburg visited Flat Rock during the summer of 1945. After spending most of their adult lives in Michigan, the Sandburgs decided to move to a more temperate climate. Paula Sandburg had devoted a summer to finding a new home for her family and her growing goat herd and made one last stop in August to inspect Connemara before returning to Michigan. Paula sent for her husband to help her decide. "When he sat on the front porch," Mrs. Sandburg recalled, "he said, 'This is the place, we will look no further.'"<sup>22</sup> By October, the family had purchased the estate and begun work on the house and grounds.

#### *Sandburg Period, 1945-1967*

Despite the considerable development of agricultural buildings and landscape completed by Smyth, the Sandburgs implemented some immediate changes to the house, outbuildings, and grounds that served the family's needs and facilitated Mrs. Sandburg's goat operations. In September 1945, Paula had arranged with Joe Anders, a local contractor, to begin the necessary changes to the house. Anders had completed most of the work on the house by January 1946 when the family moved their belongings. The Sandburgs spent approximately \$17,000 refitting the house.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>Stone curbing, evident where the road forks toward the residence, may have been in place before 1900. Hart, 22.

<sup>22</sup>Wallace, 7.

<sup>23</sup>Wallace, 10.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 21

Helga Sandburg suspected it would prove complicated and expensive to rehabilitate the home. Her father needed a place for all his books, a quiet attic-like place to work and sleep, and a place to walk outdoors. The remainder of the family--Paula, Margaret, the eldest daughter, Helga and her two young children, and Janet--needed a large living space. And Paula's goat herd also had claims upon the house. The southern half of the basement became the nursery for the newborn kids. Mrs. Sandburg's plans transformed empty walls into bookshelves, lowered some of the ceilings, created bathrooms, built-in closets, and cupboards, laid concrete on the basement floors, and provided for a new kitchen.<sup>24</sup>

Many of the outbuildings also required some alterations to suit Mrs. Sandburg's goat operation and general storage needs. Because of its proximity to the basement, half of the wash house became a kid quarters with the installation of partitions, a goat door, and a ramp. Fenced pens surrounded the building. The Swedish House, so dubbed by Carl Sandburg because of its distinctive bargeboards and design, held all the books and magazines not essential to Sandburg's work. The kitchen was transformed into a three-bay garage, although it is not clear whether the Sandburgs initiated the alteration. The spring house, later called the cheese house, served as cool storage for goat milk products. The wood shed stored equipment, furniture, materials from the house rehabilitation, and other implements, such as the three-tiered, cast-iron fountain, not used or valued by the Sandburgs. The tenant house, located west of the Swedish House, also became a storage building. The caretaker's house remained a residence for the goat herdsman and his family, but many of the other structures in the barn area were converted for use in raising goats.<sup>25</sup>

Because of the goat operations, the pastures, fences, and farm buildings required considerable attention and some alteration. All of the twisted steel fencing established by Smyth was replaced with woven wire, although fence lines remained largely unchanged. The Sandburgs planted clover, timothy, and orchard grass in the front and side pastures for use by the goats, cattle, and horses and maintained the five pasture sheds throughout the property.<sup>26</sup> The farm

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<sup>24</sup>Wallace, 7, 10; for a detailed discussion of the Sandburg alterations to the house see 10-22.

<sup>25</sup>Wallace, 21; Hart, 33, 48.

<sup>26</sup>Hart, 52-53. The five pasture sheds included: milk house, buck house, martin house, cow shed, and donkey shed. See Figure 3.35 Lakes and Pastures-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 22

buildings proved invaluable to Mrs. Sandburg's goat operation and she changed them to suit her needs. The former tenant house, located behind the caretaker's house, became a buck isolation quarters. The Sandburgs cut out goat doors at the sill level in the rear shed addition and erected a fence on the south facade. In 1947, Mrs. Sandburg altered the northern part of the barn to accommodate milking stalls. The shed may have been constructed during the Smyth period, but Paula Sandburg added cement milking stalls and created an office space with a coal stove. The barn's remaining interior space also changed with the addition of partitions and a cement floor. A milk house to process and store the retrieved milk was constructed north of the barn and attached to the rear facade by a covered walkway. This rough-surfaced concrete-block building and a lean-to equipment shed are the only new buildings added to the barn area by the Sandburgs.<sup>27</sup> The Sandburgs adapted several of the other outbuildings to their needs but apparently did not significantly alter their appearance or use.

The Sandburgs neglected most of the structures and landscape features on the property not directly related to goat-raising or household upkeep, except the side lake and the duck pond. Because of its proximity to the barn area, the duck pond was kept clean and used as a water source for the farm animals. Helga settled a flock of ducks on the south shore of Side Lake and constructed a pole and wire mesh cage on the lake's edge. In 1961, the Sandburgs hired Freeman Construction Company to drain and dredge Side Lake and repair the stone spillway. The family also installed a sand beach and a floating diving platform so the lake could be used for swimming. Despite this attention, Side Lake experienced problems caused by aquatic vegetation and delta formation. Front Lake, largely ignored by the Sandburgs, experienced a gradual decline exacerbated by increased siltation caused by the creation of another lake upstream and the introduction of water lilies by the Sandburgs. The footbridge over the front lake spillway had deteriorated and collapsed and was never replaced by the Sandburgs.<sup>28</sup> The trout pond, located south of the apple orchard, was entirely neglected and in ruinous condition when the Sandburg period ended. Finally, the ice house, in ruins in 1945, was finally removed by

Sandburg Period.

<sup>27</sup>Hart, 49. Most of the observations concerning the barn were made at the time of the survey and confirmed by park staff.

<sup>28</sup>Craig and Frazier, 17-18, 20.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 23

1950, and the greenhouse/root cellar experienced rapid deterioration because it was largely neglected by the Sandburgs.<sup>29</sup>

The grounds of Connemara required less alteration than the buildings to suit the needs and desires of the Sandburg family and the prize-winning Chikaming goat herd. However, incremental changes occurred over time because of the lack of regular maintenance by the Sandburgs. Woodland boundaries slowly expanded during the Sandburg residency, eventually encroaching on the vegetable garden's eastern border, on the lakes' edges, and upon the granite outcroppings throughout the property. The Sandburgs used the mountain trails, but likely did not rigorously maintain them. Only the reservoir on Big Glassy Mountain, constructed by Smyth as an additional water supply, was dredged regularly.<sup>30</sup>

The serpentine entrance drive, gate, and retaining walls experienced some decline during the Sandburg period, but the family made attempts to maintain the beauty and formality of this designed landscape feature. The front gate, covered with ivy by Smyth, was periodically cleared of the vine, but this work did not occur regularly. The stone retaining walls, also subject to ivy growth and structural deterioration, likely were not maintained by the Sandburgs, but remained in relatively good condition despite this neglect. The front drive, historically surfaced with sand and crushed stone, was paved by the Sandburgs in 1962 from Little River Road to the fork at the main house and used as the primary entry. The back drive received at least one resurfacing with crushed stone by the Sandburgs. The greatest change along the entrance drive resulted from the decline of the uninterrupted rows of white pines.<sup>31</sup>

The entrance drive had been one of the most attractive features of the grounds to Paula Sandburg, but by 1945, the white pines had suffered serious decline caused by age and lightning strikes. In an attempt to reinforce the feeling of a tree-lined drive despite the deterioration of the aging pines, Mrs. Sandburg planted over one hundred hemlocks behind the rows of white pines in the 1950s. Other landscaped areas closer to the house also experienced significant deterioration, and Mrs. Sandburg frequently replaced the historic vegetation with other species. The change in species accompanied by a less rigorous

<sup>29</sup>Hart, 44, 48; Craig and Frazier, 17.

<sup>30</sup>Hart, 49, 54-57.

<sup>31</sup>Hart, 27-29. See Figure 3.1 Entry Drive and Back Drive to Barn--Historic Base Map, 28.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 8

Page 24

maintenance schedule significantly reduced the formal appearance of the front drive and residence area. By 1967, the formalized, ornamental landscape maintained by Smyth had all but disappeared while the overall structure of the earlier landscapes remained intact.<sup>32</sup>

### Integrity

Carl Sandburg participated as an observer in the Connemara landscape leaving the management of the estate to his wife Paula, whose primary interest lay in her prize-winning goat herd.<sup>33</sup> As a result, the well-tended, formal landscapes developed by Memminger and Smyth adopted a looser and more natural appearance that the Sandburg's appreciated and encouraged. Throughout the Sandburg residence at Connemara, the vegetation more frequently went unpruned and the grass unmown. This approach toward the environment affected the household as well as the grounds of Connemara and greatly influences the perceived integrity of the historic resources at the National Historic Site.

The setting at Connemara most strongly conveys the designed landscapes of Memminger and Smyth. The landscape still retains the bucolic feeling that the Sandburgs valued in the property when they bought it in 1945, despite modern development outside its boundaries. The Sandburgs purchased the property because it suited the varied needs of the family; providing a farm infrastructure for Mrs. Sandburg's goat herd, a work space for Mr. Sandburg, and the proximity of nature. The Sandburgs did not neatly maintain the farm or the grounds and a loose, unkempt appearance is compatible with the property's primary period of historic significance, the Sandburg residency.

All the contributing structures and landscape features within the district possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although the previous owners moved some of the structures within the estate boundaries, all of the buildings were in their current locations during the Sandburg occupancy, 1945-1967. All of the extant properties, including their spatial arrangements and landscape settings, although manipulated by the Sandburgs for their own use, still reflect the materials, methods of construction, design intent, and historic association of

<sup>32</sup>Hart, 27-29.

<sup>33</sup>Hart, 56.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

*Section 8*

*Page 25*

their original period and yet retain a strong association with the Sandburgs because of their present preservation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

Section 9              Page 26

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

*Additional Documentation Page 27*

## Photographs

Carl Sandburg National Historic Site  
Henderson County, North Carolina  
Photographers: Maureen A. Carroll and Steven Moffson  
Location of Negatives: NPS, SERO

1. Main House, view from northeast.
2. Garage, view from north.
3. Swedish House, view from southeast.
4. Tenant House, view from northeast.
5. Wash House, view from northeast.
6. Woodshed, view from north.
7. Spring House, view from northeast.
8. Pump House, view from northeast.
9. Greenhouse, view from west.
10. Barn Pump House, view from north.
11. Farm Manager's House, view from southwest.
12. Bull Barn, view from southeast.
13. Barn Garage, view from southwest.
14. Corn Crib, view from northeast.
15. Stock Barn #1, view from northwest.
16. Main Barn, view from south.
- 16a. Milk House, view from east.
17. Stock Barn (Horse Barn), view from southeast.
18. Feed House, view from northwest.
19. Wood Shaving Shed, view from northwest.
20. Silo (and Horse Barn), view from north.
21. Buck Quarters, view from southeast.
22. Gazebo, view from west.
23. Donkey House, view from east.
24. Isolation Hut #1 (Jennifer's House), view from northeast.
25. Isolation Hut #2, view from northwest.
26. Isolation Hut #3, view from southeast.
27. Isolation Hut #4, view from west.
28. Ice House Ruins, view from north.
29. Farm Manager's Chicken House, view from southeast.
30. Farm Manager's Woodshed, view from southwest.
31. Cow Shed, view from east.
32. Fountain Pool, view from south.
33. Hog Pen, view from northeast.
34. Duck Cage, view from east.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Carl Sandburg Home  
National Historic Site  
*name of property*

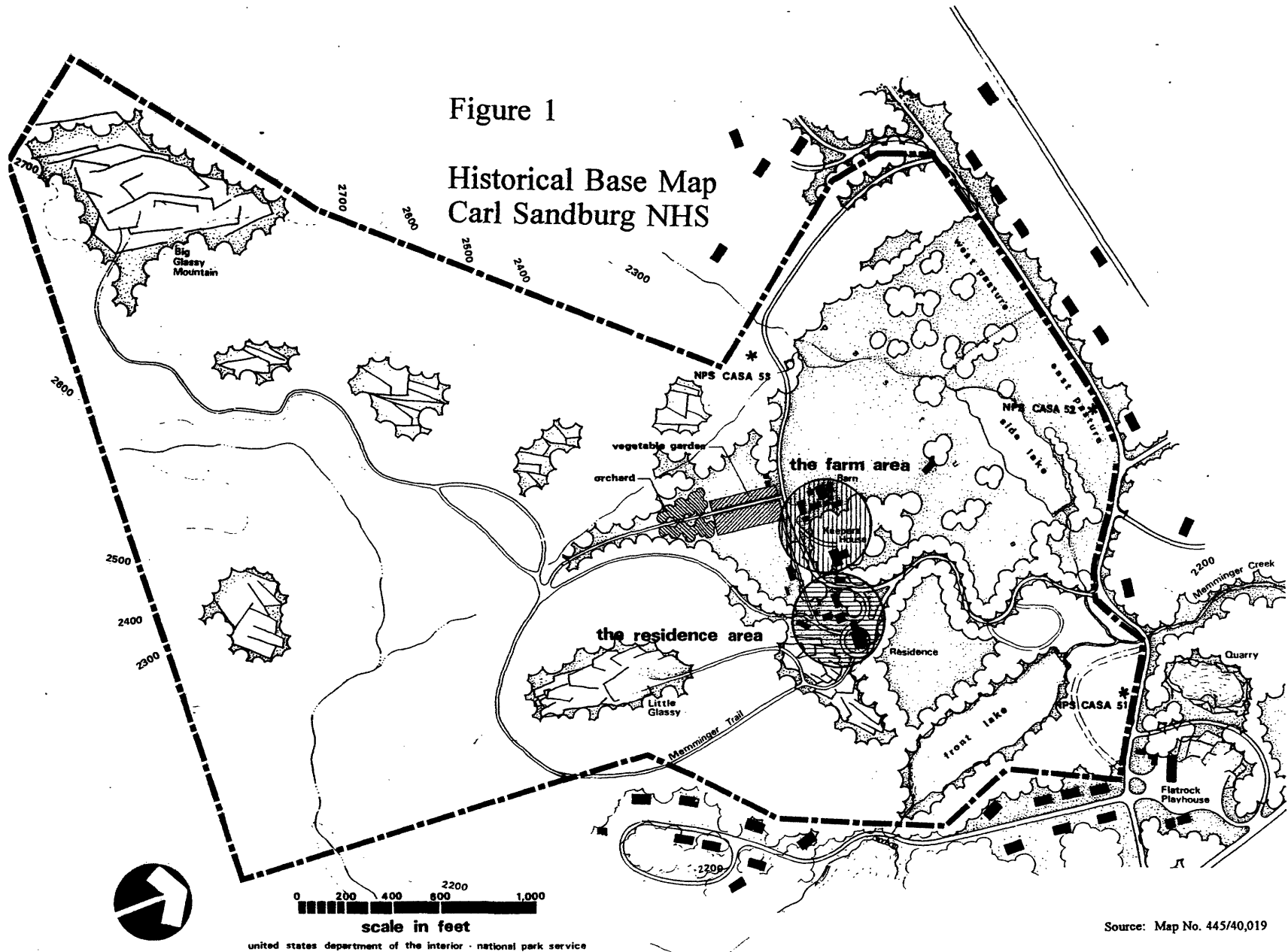
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Henderson County, North Carolina  
*county and State*

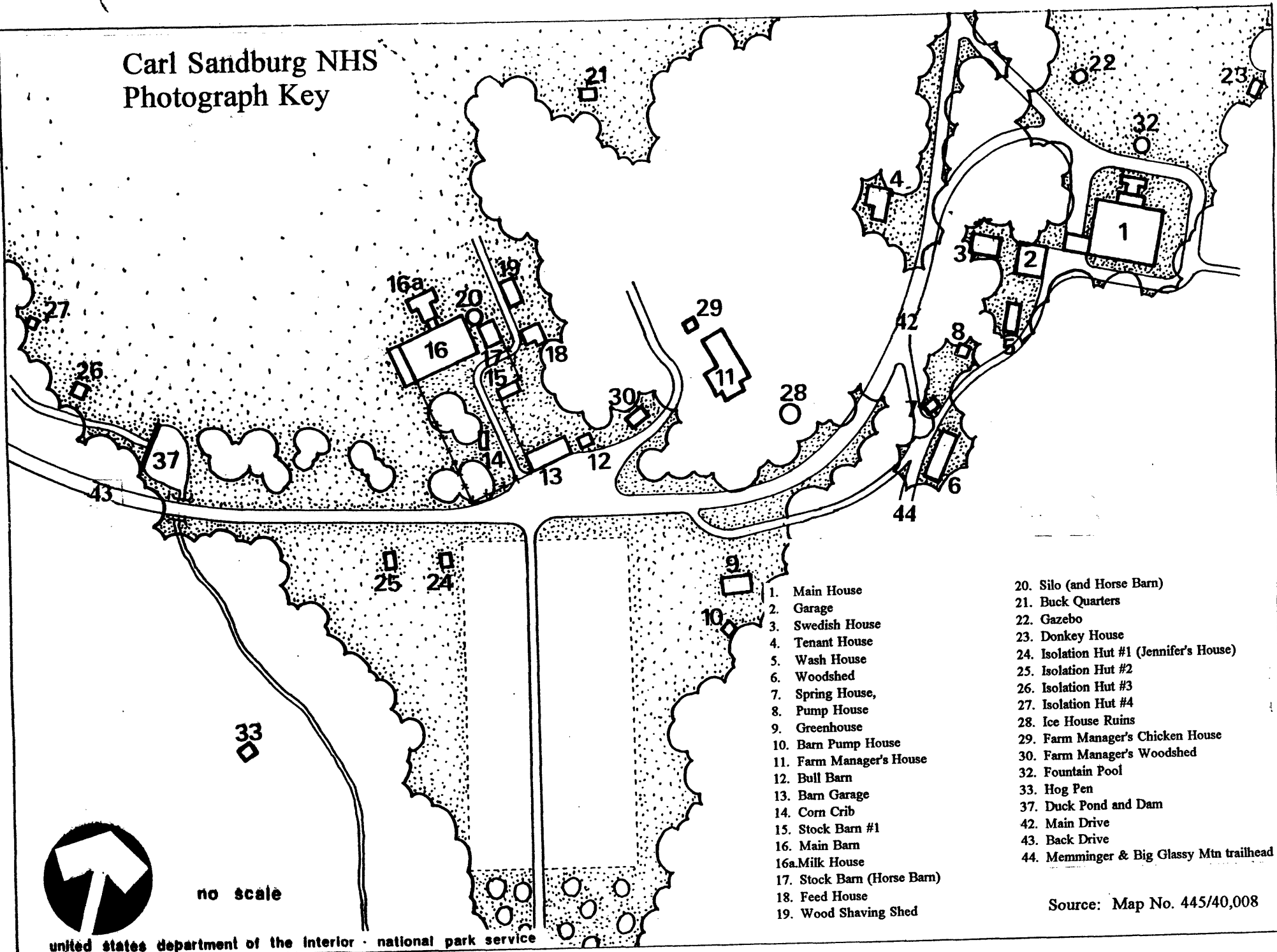
*Additional Documentation*      *Page 28*

**Photographs** (continued)

35. Front Lake Bridge, view from southwest.
36. Front Drive, Roadway Retaining Walls, view from north.
37. Duck Pond and Dam, view from northeast.
38. Front Lake Dam, view from west abutment.
39. Side Lake Dame, view from south abutment.
40. Trout Pond and Dam, view from northeast.
41. Stone Drains located northwest of residence, view from northwest.
42. Main Drive west of Farm Manager's House.
43. Back Drive, view from north.
44. Memminger and Big Glassy Mountain trailhead west of woodshed.
45. Fences and gates, north of Duck Pond.
46. Front Entrance, view from north.
47. Back Entrance, view from northeast.



# Carl Sandburg NHS Photograph Key



1. Main House
2. Garage
3. Swedish House
4. Tenant House
5. Wash House
6. Woodshed
7. Spring House,
8. Pump House
9. Greenhouse
10. Barn Pump House
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30. Farm Manager's Woodshed
32. Fountain Pool
33. Hog Pen
37. Duck Pond and Dam
42. Main Drive
43. Back Drive
44. Memminger & Big Glassy Mtn trailhead

Source: Map No. 445/40,008



no scale